

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 INSE-00

CIAE-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 /027 W
----- 013240

O R 100710Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3942

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

COMUSNAVPHIL SUBIC BAY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5004

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS:SREF, SN

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) STATE 081185; B) STATE 080342; C) SINGAPORE 1585;
D) SINGAPORE 1554; E) COMUSNAVPHIL R00216Z

1. ANUPAN DHAR, UNHCR REP HAS ADVISED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT DFA INFORMED HIM APRIL 8 THAT 65 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED AT PUERTA PRINCIESA, ISLAND OF PALAWAN. AS OF 1100 APRIL 9, DHAR WAS STILL WAITING FOR CLEARANCE FROM DFA TO FLY TO PUERTA PRINCESA TO SURVEY REFUGEE PROBLEM.

2. DHAR ALSO REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION THAT GOP WILL DIRECT VESSEL WITH REFUGEES TO SUBIC BAY WHERE THEY COULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. NAVY AND PAROLEE STATUS FROM EMBASSY. ACCORDING DHAR, THIS GOP SCENARIO ENVISAGES REFUGEE ARRIVAL AT SUBIC, AS TEST OF EMBASSY'S POLICY THAT QUESTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES IS RESPONSIBILITY OF GOP. SUCH TEST WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY PRESS CAMPAIGN. DHAR SAID HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT GOP WOULD CEASE CAMPAIGN AFTER FIVE DAYS AND ACCEPT REFUGEE IF EMBASSY MAINTAINS EXISTING POLICY.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY PAPAL NUNCIO TELEPHONED CHARGE ABOUT SAME REFUGEE GROUP. SAID LOCAL BISHOP HAD TELEPHONED THAT SOME PRIESTS AND NUNS WERE IN GROUP AND WANTED ACCES TO SUBIC NAVAL BASE TO OBTAIN ADMISSION TO U.S. AS REFUGEES. CHARGE REPLIED THAT ANY SUCH REFUGEES IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WOULD BE GOP RESPONSIBILITY AND IN SECOND INSTANCE UNHCR AND THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT RESPOND PRIOR TO PROCESSING BY GOP. IN ANY EVENT SUBIC NAVAL BASE IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE DESTINATION.

4. EMBASSY'S POLICY REPEATED TO DHAR. HE WILL INTERVIEW REFUGEES AT PUERTA PRINCESA OR WHEREVER THEY ARE FINALLY ACCEPTED, OBTAIN BASIC BIOGRAPHIC AND RELATED DATA AND WILL SEEK RESETTLEMENT SOLUTIONS. EMBASSY WILL, WHEN APPROACHED, REVIEW DATA COLLECTED BY DHAR TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY APPEAR TO MEET PRESENT RESTRICTIVE REFUGEE CRITERIA OR NORMAL VISA REQUIREMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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